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#### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

MARY E. D'ADDIEA, CLERK Deputy Clerk

KEITH I. SCHORR and SUSAN SCHORR, In their own right and as personal representatives of the Estate of RYAN K. SCHORR,

Plaintiffs,

: No. 1:CV-01-0930

VS.

WEST SHORE REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION, HOWARD DOUGHERTY, CUMBERLAND COUNTY, ROBERT GORIL and HOLY SPIRIT HOSPITAL,

: The Honorable Yvette Kane

Defendants.

# PRETRIAL MEMORANDUM OF WEST SHORE REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION AND CHIEF HOWARD DOUGHERTY

Pursuant to Rule 16.6 of the Local Rules of Civil Procedure, Defendants West Shore Regional Police Commission (the "WSPD") and Chief Howard Dougherty, while reserving their rights to supplement, hereby submit their Pretrial Memorandum.

#### A. Statement of Jurisdiction

Plaintiffs have brought: (1) a claim against both the WSPD and Chief Dougherty under 42 U.S.C. § 1983; and (2) a claim against only the WSPD under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Jurisdiction is vested in this Court by virtue of the presence of a federal question. See 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

#### B. Statement of Facts and Contentions of Liability

This case arises from an unfortunate set of circumstances involving the death of Plaintiffs' son, Ryan Schorr ("Decedent"). For a large part of his life, Decedent suffered from a significant psychiatric illness which severely disrupted his ability to carry out his daily life activities. In November 2000, Decedent's psychiatric condition worsened such that his family and friends believed that a psychiatric evaluation was necessary. On November 18, 2000, after consultation with Decedent's mother, Decedent's housemate completed an application at the Crisis Intervention Unit of Holy Spirit Hospital to have Decedent involuntarily committed pursuant to section 302 of the Pennsylvania Mental Health Procedures Act.

A crisis intervention worker evaluated the application, determined that Decedent presented a clear and present danger to himself or others and caused a warrant to be issued for Decedent's involuntary commitment. After obtaining the warrant, Officers Gary Berresford and Harry Hart of the WSPD went to Decedent's house and transported him to Holy Spirit Hospital, where he was placed in a high security room. When a crisis intervention worker entered Decedent's hospital room, he rushed past her and left the hospital.

Approximately two hours later, Decedent returned to his home. Officers Berresford and Hart were contacted and instructed to return Decedent to the hospital. After arriving at Decedent's house, the police officers entered through a sliding glass door and found Decedent in the doorway of his bedroom dressed only in a long robe. Upon seeing the officers, Decedent

ambushed them and initiated a violent assault. During the course of the struggle, Decedent grabbed Officer Berresford's gun and managed to shoot the officer's finger off and then proceeded to attack the officers with a knife, an air rifle and metal pots. Ultimately, Officer Hart was forced to shoot Decedent.

The shooting of Decedent led to a Grand Jury investigation. After hearing testimony from 44 witnesses and receiving into the record 180 exhibits, the Grand Jury concluded that Officer Hart exercised sound judgment and that he was justified in using deadly force because it was necessary to use such force to prevent death or serious bodily injury to himself and/or Officer Berresford.

Plaintiffs maintain that the WSPD and Chief Dougherty are liable under Section 1983 and that the WSPD is liable under the ADA. These claims are based on Plaintiffs' assertion that the WSPD and Chief Dougherty failed to train Officers Berresford and Hart on how to handle the type of incident at issue. The WSPD and Chief Dougherty vigorously contest this assertion. They maintain that they are not liable because, <u>inter alia</u>, the shooting was entirely justified and because the officers received all of the training that was required under Pennsylvania law, including training relating to the service of involuntary commitment warrants.

#### C. Statement of Undisputed Facts

See Exhibit "A" attached hereto.

#### D. <u>Damages</u>

According to their First Amended Complaint, Plaintiffs seek to recover: (a) general and compensatory damages and (b) reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

#### E. Witnesses and Experts

Chief Howard Dougherty
West Shore Regional Police Department
301 Market Street
Lemoyne, PA 17043

Officer Gary Berresford West Shore Regional Police Department 301 Market Street Lemoyne, PA 17043

Officer Harry Hart West Shore Regional Police Department 301 Market Street Lemoyne, PA 17043

Dr. Theodore J. Siek Analytic Bio-Chemistries 1680 D. Loretta Avenue Feasterville, PA 19053

Candace Krzywicki
Cumberland/Perry Drug and Alcohol Commission
Cumberland County Human Services Building
16 West High Street, Suite 302
Carlisle, PA 17013

Dr. Sarah Funke, M.D.
Forensic Pathology Associates, Inc.
1200 S. Cedar Crest Blvd.

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor GSB
Allentown, PA 18103

Jeffrey Franks, Cumberland County detective Cumberland County Criminal Investigation Division One Courthouse Square Carlisle, PA 17013

Simon Jackson, Cumberland County detective Cumberland County Criminal Investigation Division One Courthouse Square Carlisle, PA 17013 Les Freehling, Cumberland County detective commander Cumberland County Criminal Investigation Division One Courthouse Square Carlisle, PA 17013

Sergeant Guido
Carlisle Police Department
53 W South St
Carlisle, Pennsylvania 17013

Joseph J. Stine (Liability Expert) J.J.S. Associates, Inc. 2368 Greensward South Warrington, PA 18976

Dr. Robert Wolf (Damages Expert) 1939 Rt. 70 East Suite 120 Cherry Hill, PA NJ 08003

The WSPD and Chief Dougherty reserve the right to call any witness identified by

Plaintiffs, Defendant Holy Spirit Hospital or Defendant Cumberland County.

#### F. Summary of Testimony from Expert Witnesses

<u>Joseph Stine</u> – Mr. Stine is a former police chief who has over 25 years of experience working as a police officer. Mr. Stine opines that Officers Berresford and Hart acted in conformity with generally accepted practices and procedures when they served the involuntary commitment warrant on Decedent and that the use of deadly force was justified.

<u>Dr. Robert Wolf, Ed.D. M.B.A.</u> – Dr. Wolf is a Certified Rehabilitation Economist. Dr. Wolf reviewed various documents, including Decedent's school records and tax returns. Based upon Decedent's background, Dr. Wolf opines that Decedent's economic losses range from \$0 to approximately \$45,000.

#### G. Special Comments

None at the present time.

#### H. Summary of Legal Issues

The WSPD and Chief Dougherty have filed a motion for summary judgment and a motion in <u>limine</u> to preclude Plaintiffs from offering the opinions and testimony of Dr. Suzanne

Vogel-Scibilia against them. Both of these motions are currently pending before this Court and the relevant legal issues are summarized therein.

#### I. <u>Stipulations Desired</u>

None at the present time.

#### J. <u>Estimated Number of Trial Days</u>

The WSPD and Chief Dougherty estimate that a trial in this case would last approximately 10 days.

#### K. Other Matters To Be Tried

None at the present time.

#### L. Schedule of Exhibits

See Exhibit "B" attached hereto. The WSPD and Chief Dougherty reserve the right to use any exhibit identified by Plaintiffs, Defendant Holy Spirit Hospital or Defendant Cumberland County.

#### M. Special Verdict Questions

None at the present time.

#### N. Notification of Person with Settlement Authority

Counsel for the WSPD and Chief Dougherty has notified a person with settlement authority that she must attend both the pretrial conference (scheduled for May 27, 2003) and the trial (scheduled to begin on June 9, 2003), or, upon approval of the Court, be available by telephone during the pretrial conference and trial.

#### O. <u>Certification Regarding Depositions</u>

The WSPD and Chief Dougherty intend to introduce a videotape deposition from its damages expert, Dr. Robert Wolf. The deposition is being scheduled for the end of May 2003.

After the deposition is taken, counsel for the WSPD and Chief Dougherty intends to confer with

all counsel in this case in an effort to eliminate irrelevancies, side comments, resolved objections and other matters not necessary for consideration by the trier of fact.

#### P. Requests for Findings of Fact and Law

Not Applicable.

Dated: May 13, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

David J. MacMain (Ra. Atty. I.D. No. 59320)
Gregory J. Hauck (Pa. Atty. I.D. No. 82958)
MONTGOMERY, McCRACKEN,
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Philodolphia DA 10100 1000

Philadelphia, PA 19109-1099 (215) 772-1500

Attorneys for Defendants West Shore Regional Police Commission and Chief Howard Dougherty

#### EXHIBIT "A"

## STATEMENT OF UNDISPUTED FACTS BETWEEN PLAINTIFFS AND THE WEST SHORE REGIONAL POLICE COMMISSION AND CHIEF HOWARD DOUGHERTY

On or about February 28, 2003, the West Shore Regional Police Commission (the "WSPD") and Chief Howard Dougherty filed a Statement of Material Facts in Support of their Motion for Summary Judgment. The undisputed facts listed below are those facts which Plaintiffs admitted to in their response to the WSPD's and Chief Dougherty's Statement of Material Facts.

#### A. The Incident

- 1. At the time of his death, Ryan Schorr ("Decedent") was a 25 year old man who lived with a roommate, Matthew Gaumer, in the Borough of Wormleysburg.
- 2. For a large part of his life, Decedent suffered from bipolar manic disorder, a psychiatric illness which severely disrupted his ability to carry out his daily life activities.
- 3. While the disorder was treatable with medication, Decedent failed to take his medication on several occasions, causing him to experience delusions and hallucinations.
- 4. On several of these occasions, Decedent had been involuntarily committed pursuant to Section 302 of Pennsylvania's Mental Health Act, 50 Pa. C.S.A. § 7302.
- 5. In early November 2000, Decedent's roommate, Mr. Gaumer, became concerned for Decedent's well-being.
- 6. He had been friends with Decedent since high school and recognized that Decedent was acting odd.
- 7. At some point, Mr. Gaumer learned that Decedent had stopped taking his medication and ceased seeing his psychiatrist.

- 9. Mr. Gaumer decided to place a phone call to Decedent's mother, Plaintiff Susan Schorr.
  - 10. He told her about the odd behavior that Decedent had recently been exhibiting.
- 11. For example, earlier that day, Decedent had entered the Hershey Hotel and attempted to get a room, telling hotel staff that he did not carry cash without his bodyguard and stating that the only way he was going to get a room was if he had either a credit card or a gun.
- 12. Because of Decedent's unusual behavior, Mr. Gaumer and Mrs. Schorr went to Holy Spirit Hospital, where Mr. Gaumer completed an Application for Involuntary Emergency Examination and Treatment.
- 13. In the application, Mr. Gaumer indicated that Decedent should be involuntarily committed because he believed that Decedent was mentally disabled and that he presented a "clear and present danger" to himself or others.
- 14. A crisis intervention worker evaluated the application and caused an order to be issued for Decedent's involuntary commitment.
- 15. At approximately 7:30 a.m. on the morning of November 18, 2000, Officers Gary Berresford and Harry Hart were dispatched to execute the Section 302 warrant and corresponding order that had been issued for Decedent.
- 16. When the officers arrived at Decedent's house, they explained that they were there to take him to the hospital.
- 17. Decedent told the officers that he was losing a million dollars a day by putting up with "this bullshit" and that he had "a license to kill from the President."

- 19. The officers then transported Decedent to the hospital and escorted him into a room in the Emergency Department that is specifically adapted for patients that present a security risk.
- 20. The officers remained at the hospital until hospital personnel indicated that they were not needed anymore.
- 21. Despite Decedent's emotional problems, the officers handled the first encounter without any problems or difficulties.
- 22. Shortly after 9:00 a.m. that morning, a crisis intervention worker attempted to enter Decedent's room so that she could read him his rights.
- 23. When she opened the door, Decedent rushed toward her, pushed her backwards and fled from the hospital.
  - 24. A nurse quickly called 911 and informed the operator that Decedent had escaped.
  - 25. Police began searching the vicinity for Decedent.
- 26. At approximately 11:20 a.m., Mrs. Schorr notified police that Decedent had returned to his home.
- 27. Cumberland County Control radioed Officers Berresford and Hart and informed them that Decedent was back home.
- 28. The officers approached the front of Decedent's house, repeatedly banging on Decedent's door and trying to contact Decedent by calling him on the phone, but received no response.
- 29. The officers then walked around the back of the house and discovered that a sliding glass door was unlocked.

- 30. The officers entered the house and could hear loud music coming from upstairs.

  Officer Hart called out: "Police officers. We're here. We need to talk to you. Come on out and talk to us."
  - 31. Omitted.
- 32. Officer Berresford proceeded up the stairs first with Officer Hart following a few steps behind.
- 33. When he reached the top of the stairs, Officer Berresford peeked around the corner in the direction of the music.
- 34. He saw Decedent standing in his bedroom wearing a hat and a long shaggy white coat.
- 35. The coat was hanging open and Officer Berresford could see that Decedent had no clothes on underneath the coat.
- 36. A physical struggle between Officer Berresford and Decedent ensued, during which Officer Berresford's finger was shot off when his pistol discharged.
  - 37. Omitted.
  - 38. Omitted.
- 39. When Officer Hart entered the bedroom, he saw Officer Berresford on his knees with Decedent on top of him.
  - 40. Omitted.
  - 41. Omitted.
  - 42. Omitted.
  - 43. Omitted.
  - 44. Omitted.

- 45. Decedent whose coat had come off during the altercation and was now completely nude ran out of the bedroom.
  - 46. Omitted.
  - 47. After Decedent fled from the bedroom, Officer Berresford was bleeding.
  - 48. Officer Hart radioed for back-up and requested medical assistance.
- 49. Shortly thereafter, however, Decedent suddenly reappeared in the doorway of the bedroom with a pot and a pan.
  - 50. Omitted.
  - 51. Omitted.
  - 52. Officer Hart fired several shots at Decedent, which resulted in Decedent's death.
- 53. The autopsy of Decedent revealed that there were traces of the illegal drugs Ecstasy and marijuana in his blood stream.
  - 54. Omitted.
  - 55. Omitted.
- 56. Because officers from the WSPD were involved in the shooting of Decedent, the investigation was turned over to the District Attorney's Office for Cumberland County.
- 57. The District Attorney's Office convened a grand jury, which heard testimony from 44 witnesses and reviewed 180 exhibits.
  - 58. Omitted.

#### B. The WSPD

59. The WSPD was formed in 1995 by an agreement between the Boroughs of Lemoyne and Wormleysburg for the purpose of providing police services to both boroughs.

- 60. All persons employed as police officers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania including officers of the WSPD must be certified by the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission ("MPOETC").
- 61. MPOETC requires officers to receive both basic training, which is often referred to as "Act 120" training, and annual training, which is often referred to as "Act 180" training.
- 62. At the time of the incident involving Decedent, both Officer Berresford and Hart were certified and in good standing with MPOETC.
  - 63. Omitted.
  - 64. Omitted.
- 65. Aside from the incident involving Decedent, not once between January 1, 1998 and December 31, 2000 had the execution of an involuntary commitment order resulted in the use of force by police officers or physical injury to anyone.
- 66. Additionally, Chief Dougherty testified that in the ten (10) years preceding the incident with Decedent, there had never been a shooting involving an officer of the WSPD.

#### C. Officer Berresford

- 67. Officer Berresford graduated from the police academy in 1978.
- 68. He has worked as a police officer continuously from that time until the present, except for a brief period between September 1990 and April 1991.
- 69. He began working as a patrolman with the WSPD at the time of its inception in 1995.
- 70. Since his graduation from the police academy, Officer Berresford has attended training courses on various topics, including training on the use of firearms, ASP batons and pepper spray.

#### 71. Omitted.

- 72. As a rookie, he accompanied other officers and observed how to properly serve the warrant.
- 73. Officer Berresford testified that at the time he executed the involuntary commitment order for Decedent, he felt as if he was qualified and properly trained to do so.
- 74. Officer Berresford estimated that over the course of his career, approximately 50 percent of the calls that he has handled involved someone with some nature of emotional disturbance.
- 75. He explained that he has very rarely had any difficulty in dealing with these types of people as he has usually been successful in talking them down to where they can talk reasonably with one another.
- 76. During his career with the WSPD, there have never been any complaints by a citizen or any lawsuits of any type filed against Officer Berresford.
- 77. In both 2001 and 2002, MPOETC introduced courses for police officers in Pennsylvania that were aimed at assisting officers in the recognition of various disabilities.
- 78. Officer Berresford took both of these courses and testified that there was nothing that he learned which would have made him handle the incident involving Decedent any differently.

#### D. Officer Hart

- 79. Officer Hart was first hired as a police officer by the New Cumberland Police Department in 1965.
- 80. He retired from that department as a sergeant in 1990, after having worked there for 25 years.
- 81. Between 1990 and 1994, Officer Hart worked as a police officer in the Borough of Lemoyne and from 1995 to the present, he has worked for the WSPD.

- 82. At the beginning of his career, Officer Hart received police training when he attended programs at the Harrisburg City Police School and the Municipal Police Officer's Training Academy in Hershey.
  - 83. Each of these training programs lasted about three months.
- 84. Since the early 1980's, he has attended the annual training courses that are required to be taken by all police officers in Pennsylvania.
  - 85. Also, in the early 1990's, he was certified as an instructor for the ASP baton.
  - 86. Omitted.
- 87. He estimated that over the course of his career, he has served several dozen involuntary commitment warrants.
- 88. He also estimated that about 50% to 60% of the calls that he handles involves someone who is emotionally upset.
- 89. Officer Hart explained that he has received both formal and on-the-field training with respect to dealing with these types of people.
- 90. Officer Hart also testified that at the time of the incident involving Decedent, there was no question in his mind about how to properly execute an involuntary commitment order.
- 91. Like Officer Berresford, there have never been any citizen complaints or any lawsuits of any type filed against Officer Hart.
- 92. In the years following the incident involving Decedent, Officer Hart attended the courses offered by MPOETC that were aimed at assisting officers in the recognition of various disabilities.
- 93. Officer Hart testified that there was nothing that he learned which would have made him handle the incident differently.

# EXHIBIT "B"

# CLERK'S EXHIBIT LISTING

JUDGE: Judge Yvette Kane

West Shore Regional Police Commission, Abbreviated Name of Case: Schorr v.

Case No.: 1:CV-01-930

Chief Howard Regional Police Commission and West Schorr Name of party submitting this list:

Doughterty

oughout; W equals witness) Vertical lines equal ditto marks thr notes: Judge's trial

Exhibit	Description of Object or Item	Identified in	Date
Initial and No.		Court	Admitted
D100	Complaints on November 18, 2000 relating to incident		
D101	Cumberland County Police Communications relating to shooting incident		
D102	Cumberland County Pennsylvania Public Safety Communications on November		
	18, 2000		
D103	Timeline		
D104	E-mail from Howard Dougherty, dated November 19, 2000		
D105	Memorandum from Howard Dougherty, dated November 19, 2000		
D106	Memorandum from Howard Dougherty, dated May 29, 2001		
D107	List of Officer Injuries		
D108	Letter from John Sancenito to Howard Dougherty, dated December 6, 2000		
D109	Subpoena from Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to Howard Dougherty, dated		
	December 4, 2000		
D110	Letter from Howard Dougherty to John Sancenito, dated December 11, 2000		
D111	Press Release regarding Grand Jury Report		
D112	Order Accepting and Filing Investigating Grand Jury Report No. 1		

D113	t No. 1 of Grand Jury
D114	
	hment
D115	Letter from Michael Schwoyer to Chiefs of Police, dated December 7, 2000
D116	Releases from Cumberland County Coroner's Officer
D117	5-1 of the West
D118	Order 95-2, Impact and Secondary Weapons
D119	Order 95-3, Vehicle In
D120	Order 95-5, Evidence
D121	Motor Vel
D122	, Use of De
D123	Order 95-8, Domestic
D124	Order 95-9, Use of Force
D125	Order 95-10, Confiden
D126	Order 95-11, Dissemir
D127	Order 96-1, (
D128	Order 97-1, Domestic
D129	8-1, Silent Ala
D130	Order 99-1, Information 5
D131	Order 99-2, Acutrak
D132	General Order 2000-1, Automated External Defibrillators
D133	ational Chart
D134	Order 2000-2, Investig
D135	, Safe Op
D136	Training, 1991
D137	Training, 1998 Schedule
D138	Iealth & Mental Heal
D139	onal Police Department Police
D140	Dougherty's Curriculum Vitae
D141	Records of Gary Berres
D142	Records of Harry Ha
D143	m Vitae a

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D144	
D145	Ryan Schorr's Tax Returns for years 1995-2000
D146	icate for Letters of Admir
D147	n expenses 1
D148	Application for involuntary emergency examination and treatment of Ryan Schorr, dated 11/00
D149	
D150	n statement of Carol
D151	of David
D152	itervention L
D153	y Counties
	305
D154	John R. Dietz Emergency Center – Management of the Acutely Disturbed Patient Policy #660.50
D155	Holy Spirit Hospital Community Mental Health Center - Crisis intervention service
	nagement of Acutely Disturbed Patient in ECU
D156	Dietz Emergency Center - Management of
	#660.00-03
D157	ual
D158	ints/Protective L
D159	Holy Spirit Hospital – Security Manual – Restraint (Patient) Policy #15.03
D160	Spirit Hospital – ECU Seclusion Room draft policy #40.01
D161	records of Ryan Schorr, dated November 18, 200
D162	first floor of Ryan Schorr's house
D163	of second floor of Ry
D164	nmaries
D165	Letter from Heidi Bowen to Matt Gaumer
D166	Report No. 6843
D167	Report No.
D168	ra Somerson's diary
D169	rson to Gerald Williams, dated September 9
D170	from Gerald Williams to Ira Somerson, dated October 10

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D171	Letter from Gerald Williams to Ira Somerson dated August 28 2002
D172	loov report of Theodore Siek
D173	nolication for involuntary em
D174	
D175	Application for involuntary emergency examination and treatment of Ryan Schorr,
D176	Holy Spirit Hospital Social History of Ryan Schorr, dated May 1995
D177	tor's notes of interview with Susan Schorr
D178	tor's narrative of interview with Su
D179	t and Communications Log Times
D180	of Taped Statement of Ma
D181	hs of Officer Berresford's injuries
D182	phs of Officer Hart's injuri
D183	Photographs of West Shore Regional Police Cruiser
D184	phs of
D185	phs of air rifle use
D186	of back of 445 Meadow I
D187	phs of first flo
D188	phs of second floor
D189	phs of stairs leading from 1
D190	d sofa
D191	ds from Sus
	Co)
D192	rt records from Schorr v
D193	from Schorr v. Schorr, No. 445 S 96 (Cumberland
D194	norr's records from Shippensburg
D195	Schorr's records from Su
D196	ds relating to Estate of Ryan Schorr produced by Rc
D197	ces of the Borough of Lemoyne and the Borou
	creating the West Snore Kegional Police Department

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D198	Merger Agreement between Borough of Wormleysburg and Borough of Lemoyne,	
	dated January 1, 1995	
D199	Interrogatory and Documents Responses of Plaintiffs	
D200	Letter from Jamie C. Ray to Gregory J. Hauck supplementing interrogatory	
	responses, dated June 25, 2002, K. Schorr Dep. Ex. 7	

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing pretrial memorandum to be served, via first-class mail, postage prepaid, upon each of the following persons:

Gerald J. Williams, Esquire Williams, Cuker & Berezofsky One Penn Center 1617 JFK Boulevard, Suite 800 Philadelphia, PA 19103-1895 Attorney for Plaintiffs

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3401 North Front Street
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Cumberland County

Dated: May 13, 2003

Gregory () Haudk